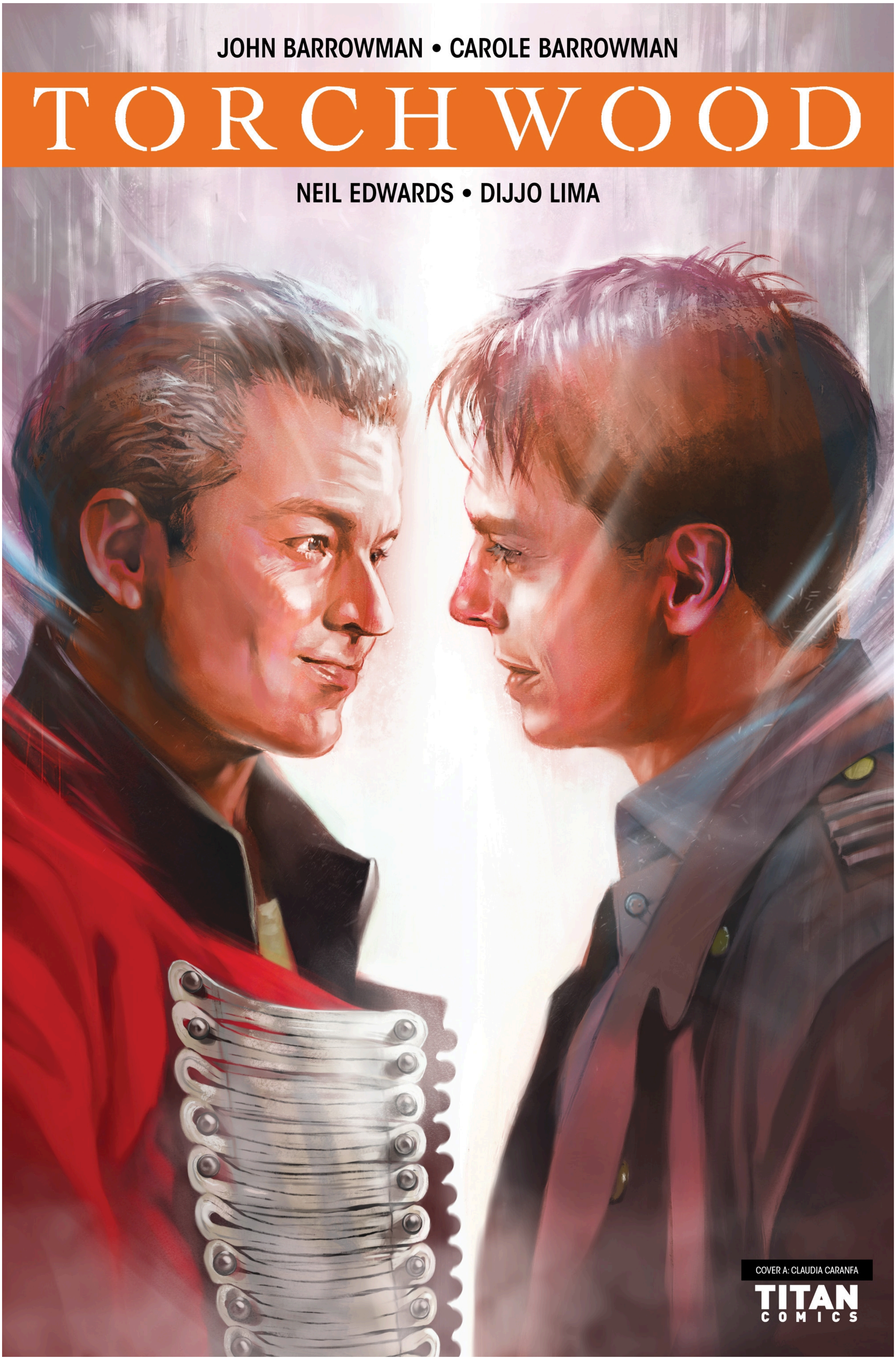
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TORCHWOOD

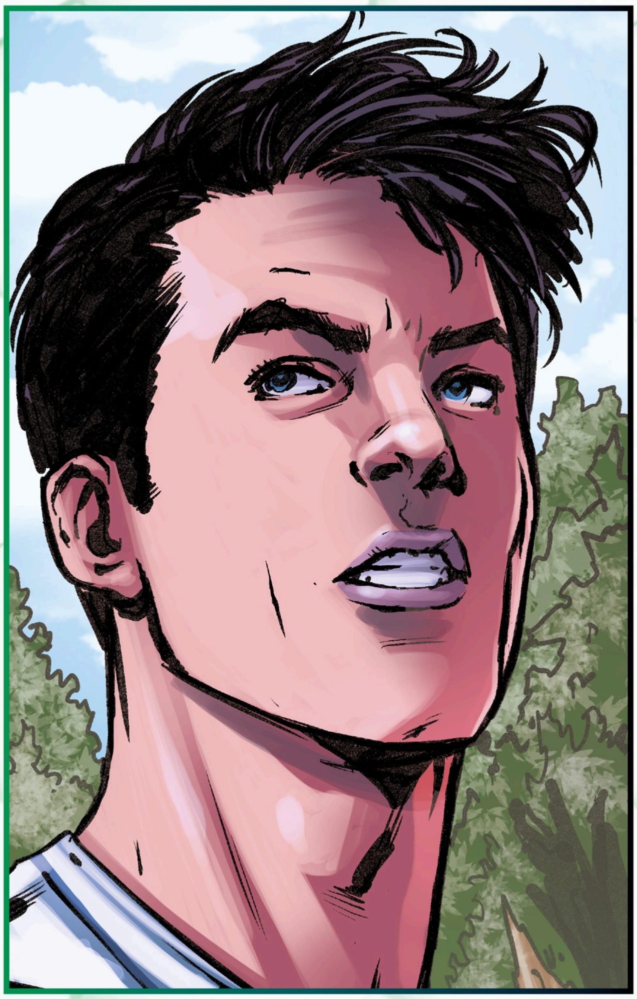
THE CULLING

PREVIOUSLY IN TORCHWOOD

Captain Jack and his Torchwood operatives aboard the alien tech-filled ship the *Ice Maiden* managed to thwart a plot by the alien Navigators to harvest the Earth, abetted by the Vervoids. Now, the team must help the planet recover, and continue to look for answers amidst the wreckage. But there's something – someone! – emerging from Station Zero, where the final battle took place… something that will change Jack and Gwen's lives forever!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

New to this story and want to know who's who? Let us fill you in on the main players among Torchwood's agents and their enemies…



CAPTAIN JACK HARKNESS

Immortal former Time Agent from the 51st Century, and ex-companion of the Doctor. More recently, the long-time head of Torchwood Cardiff.

Special thanks to Russell T Davies, James Goss, Scott Handcock, the Big Finish team, Mandy Thwaites, Andrew James, Edward Russell, Derek Ritchie, Kirsty Mullan, Kate Bush, and Ed Casey for their invaluable assistance.

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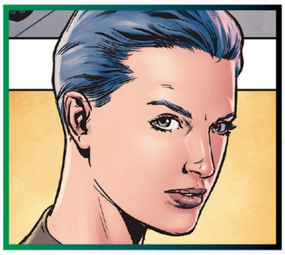
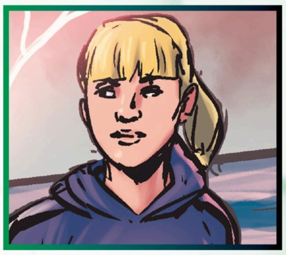
GWEN COOPER

Acting head of Torchwood Cardiff, and former police officer. Married to Rhys Williams, and the mother of Anwen. Drawn back into the world of Torchwood after the attack in the Skagerrak Strait.



SHELLEY

The *Ice Maiden*'s A.I. avatar, with a personality based on that of the 19th-Century author Mary Shelley. She keeps the *Ice Maiden* running, but can be difficult to manage... She is an invaluable asset, even when the Torchwood crew are away from the ship.



DANA MACLEISH

The *Ice Maiden*'s captain, and all-round mystery woman. Bearer of a mysterious tattoo on her back. She, along with her ship and crew, are currently away on a mission to help in the planet's recovery.

DOCILIS

Former Time Agent, Docilis was revealed to be the perpetrator of the Navigators' plans to harvest Earth and form a new species. Believed to have perished at Station Zero.

CAPTAIN JOHN HART

Former Time Agent from the 51st Century turned intergalactic rogue. Ex-lover and Time Agent partner of Captain Jack Harkness. Forever a thorn in Jack's side, his appearances usually bring trouble.

?

This... creature emerged from a Vervoid pod amidst the destruction of Station Zero. She bears an uncanny resemblance to both Jack and Gwen... but who, or what, is she?

This volume takes place after the *Torchwood* novel 'The Exodus Code' and the *Torchwood* comics collections 'World Without End' and 'Station Zero.'

TORCHWOOD

THE CULLING

PART 1 OF 4

SCRIPT
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& CAROLE BARROWMAN

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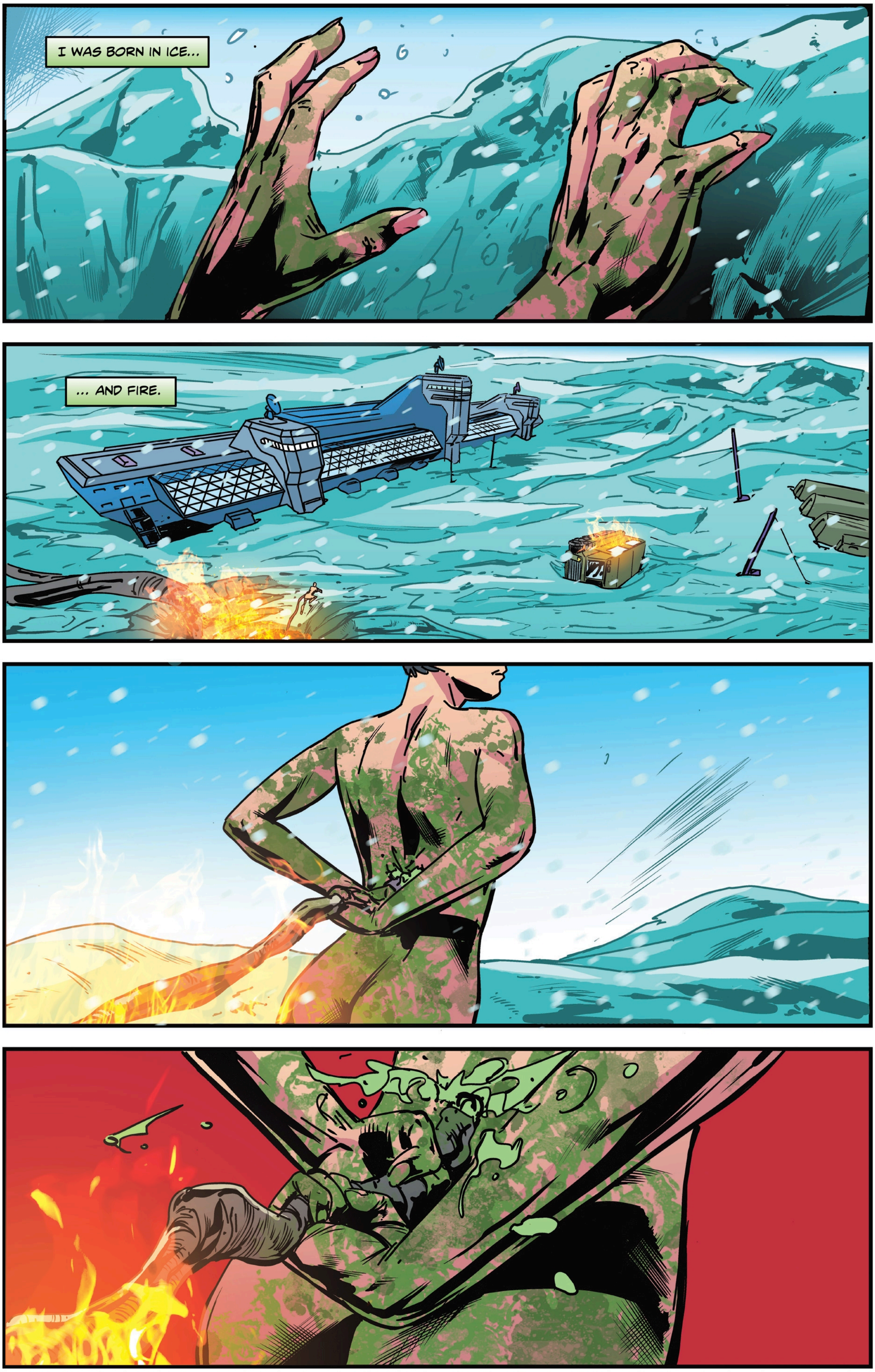
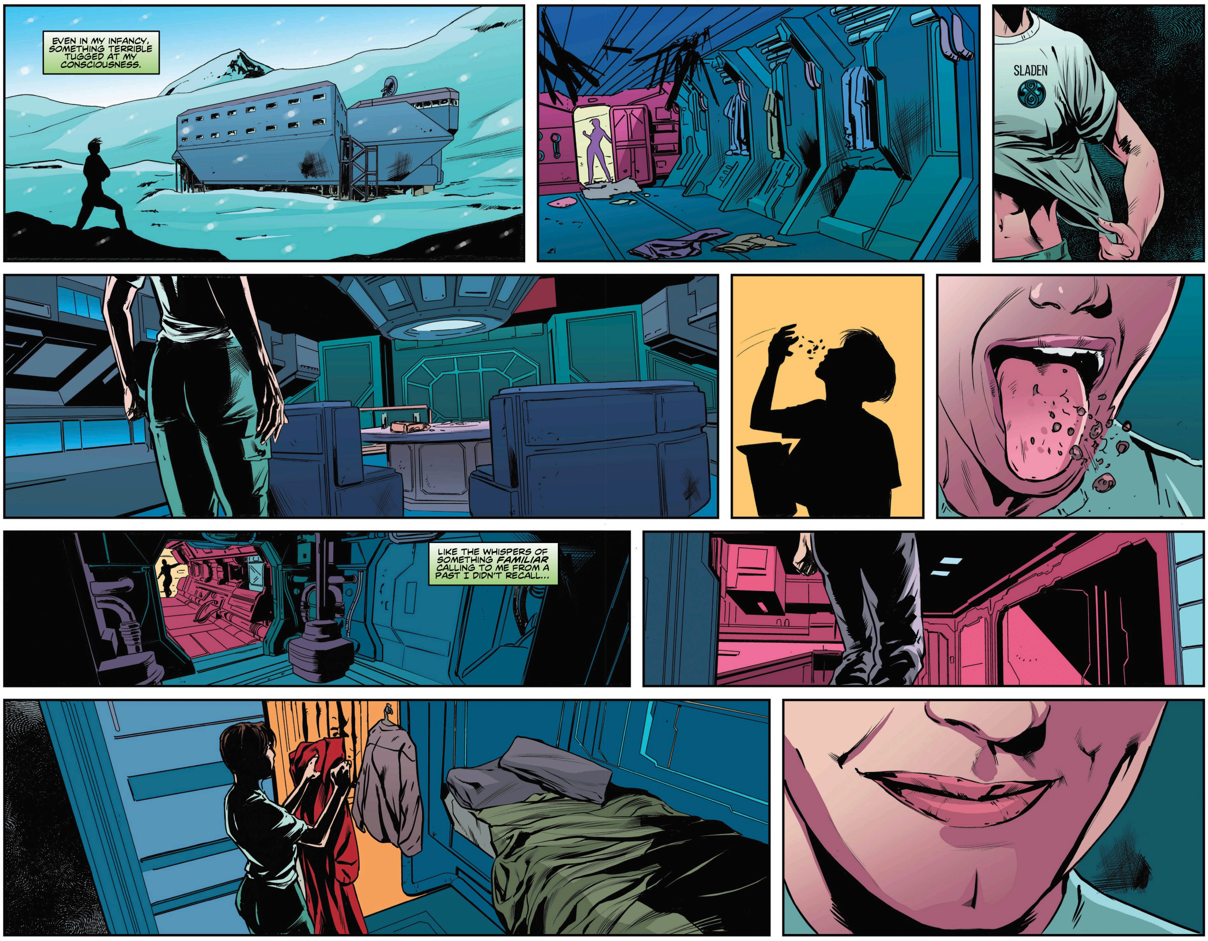

I WAS BORN IN ICE...
... AND FIRE.


EVEN IN MY INFANCY, SOMETHING TERRIBLE TUGGED AT MY CONSCIOUSNESS.
SLADEN
LIKE THE WHISPERS OF SOMETHING *FAMILIAR* CALLING TO ME FROM A PAST I DIDN'T RECALL...

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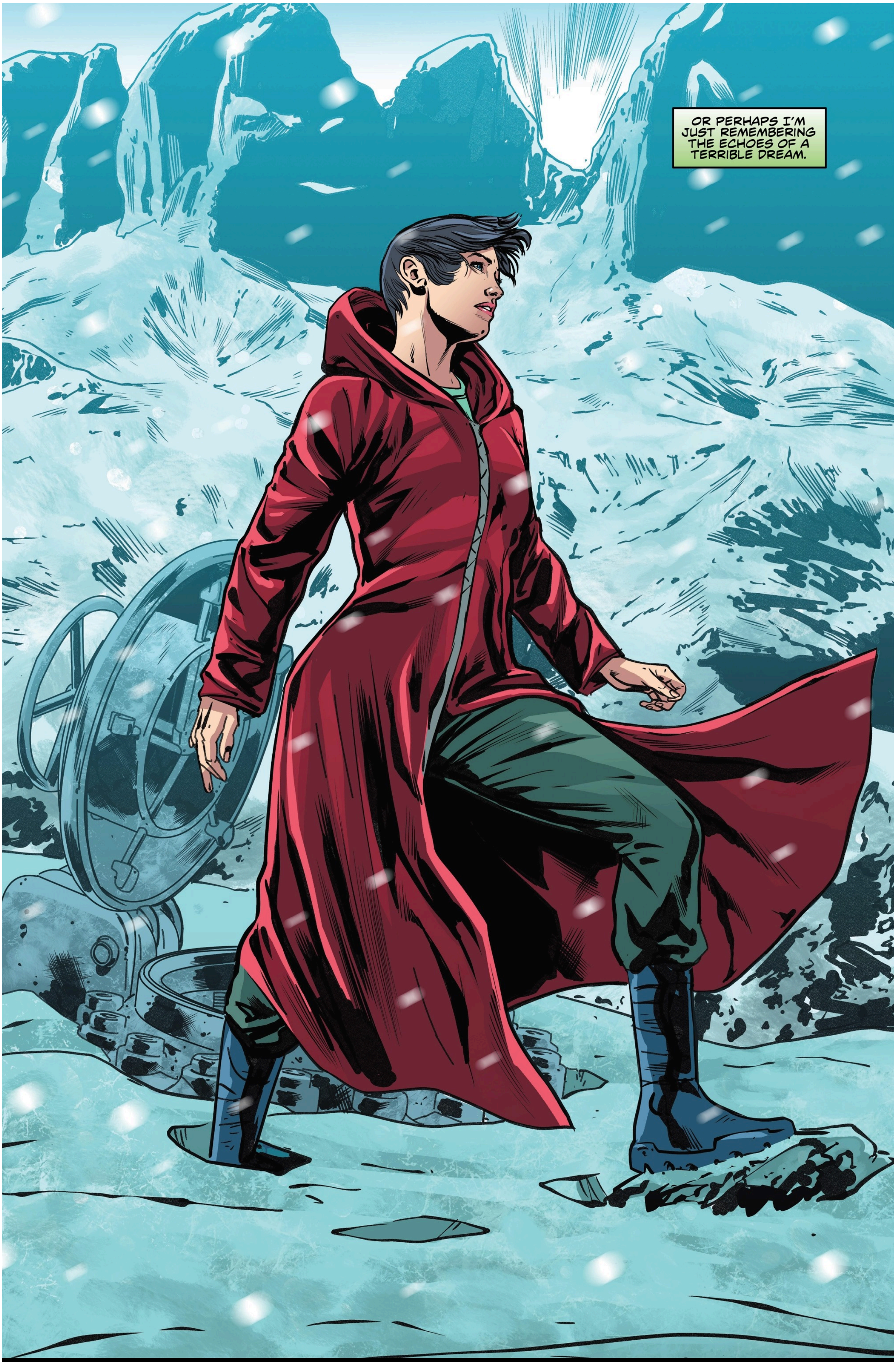
OR PERHAPS I'M JUST REMEMBERING THE ECHOES OF A TERRIBLE DREAM.

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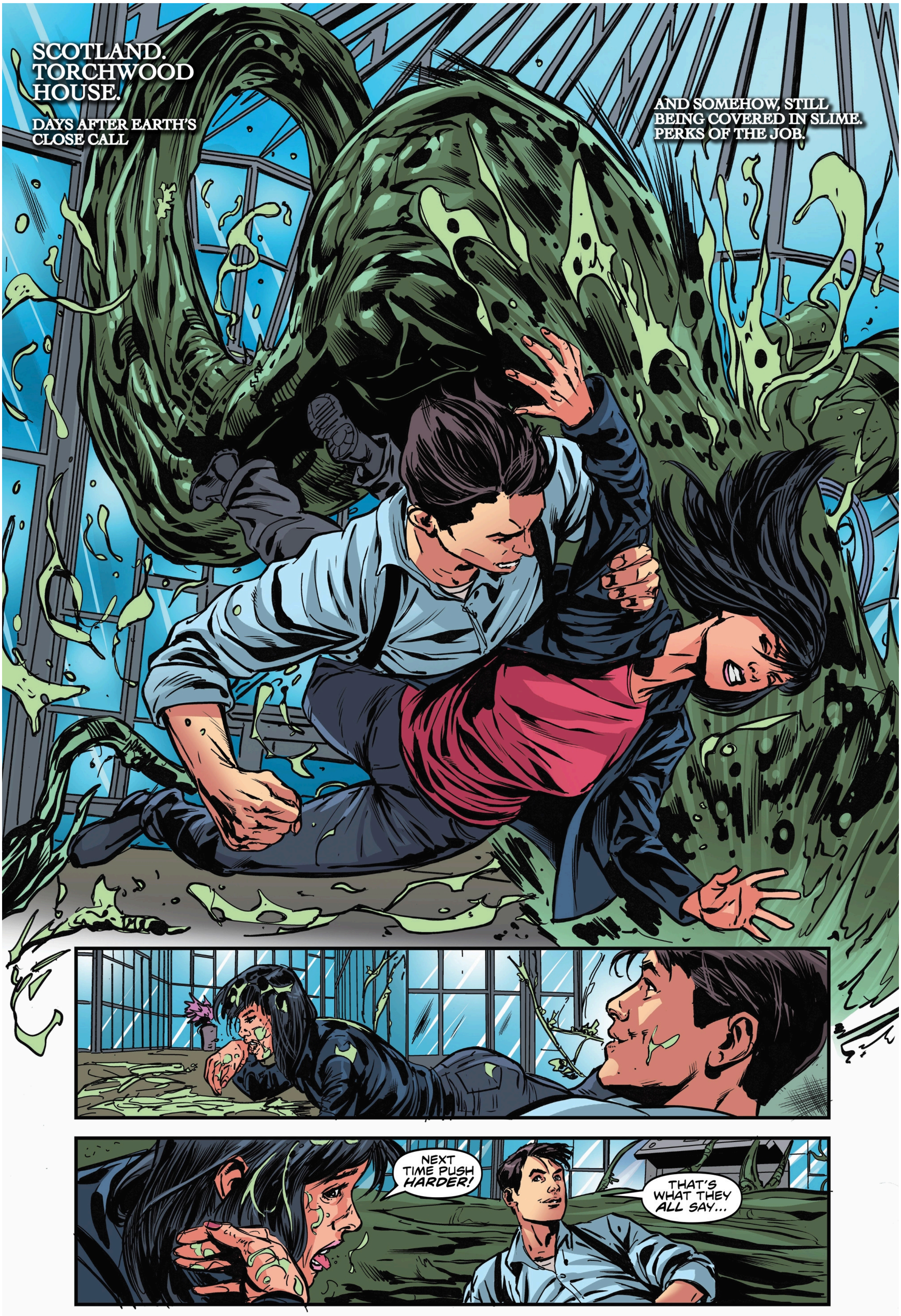
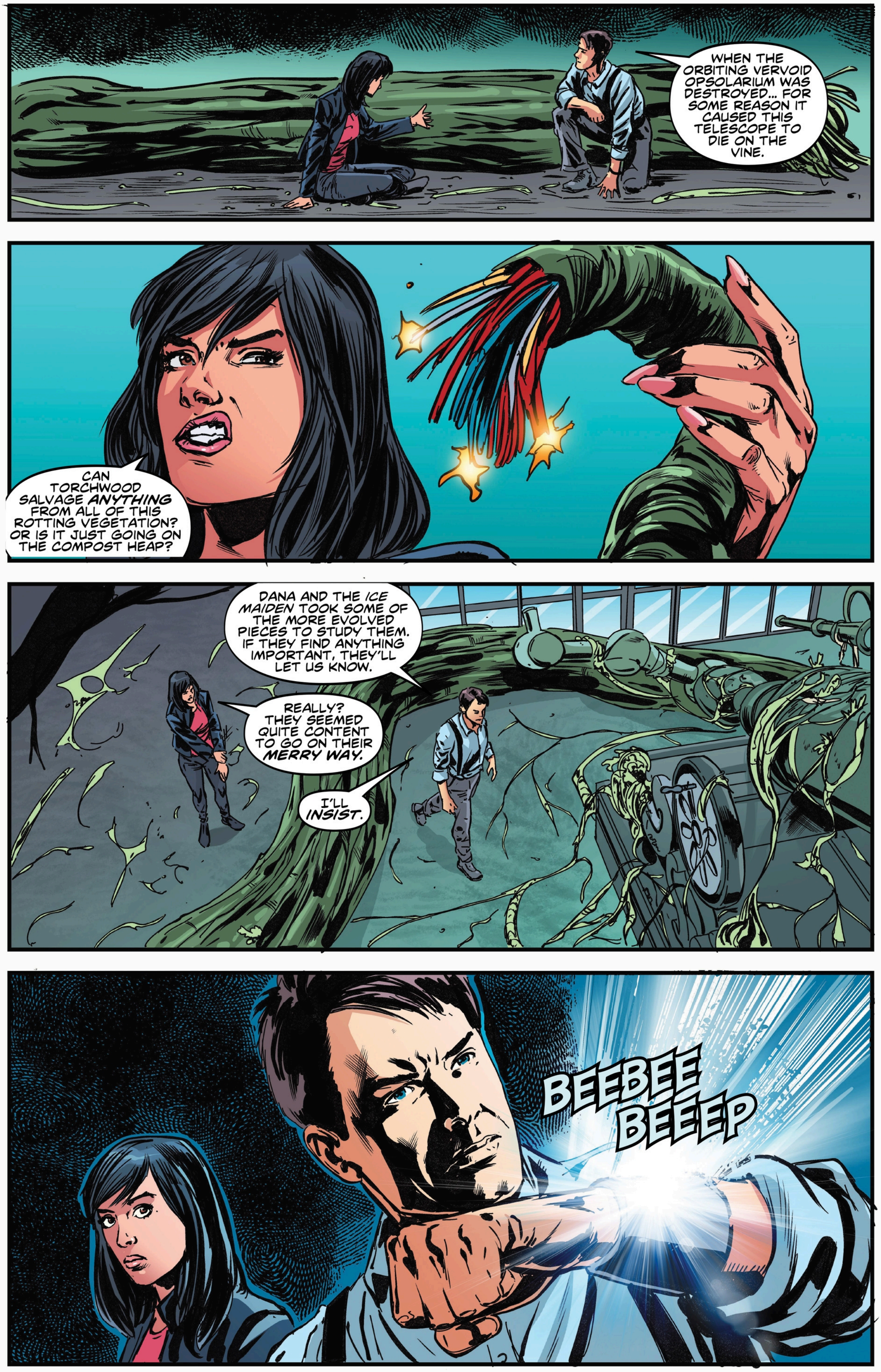
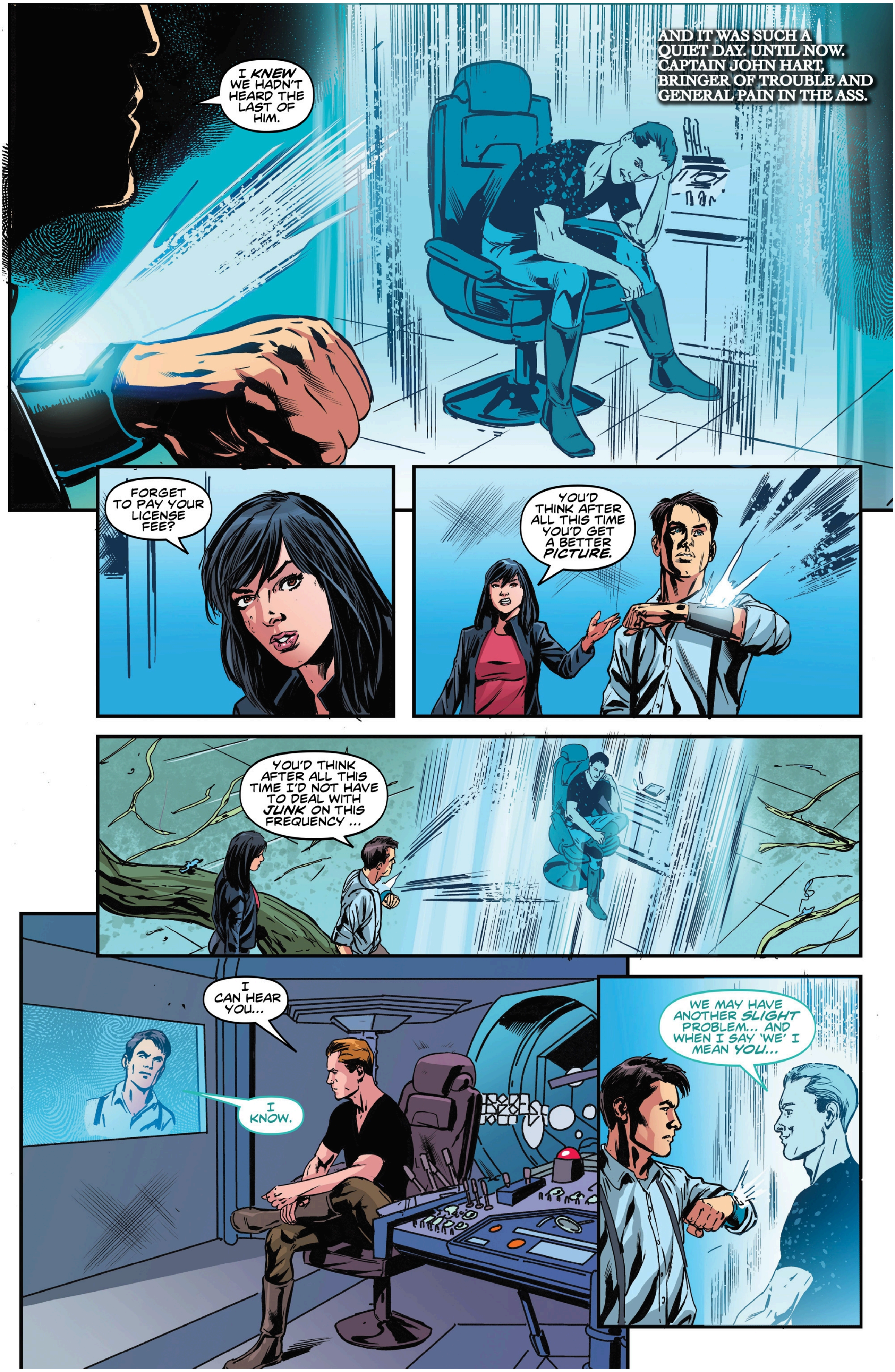
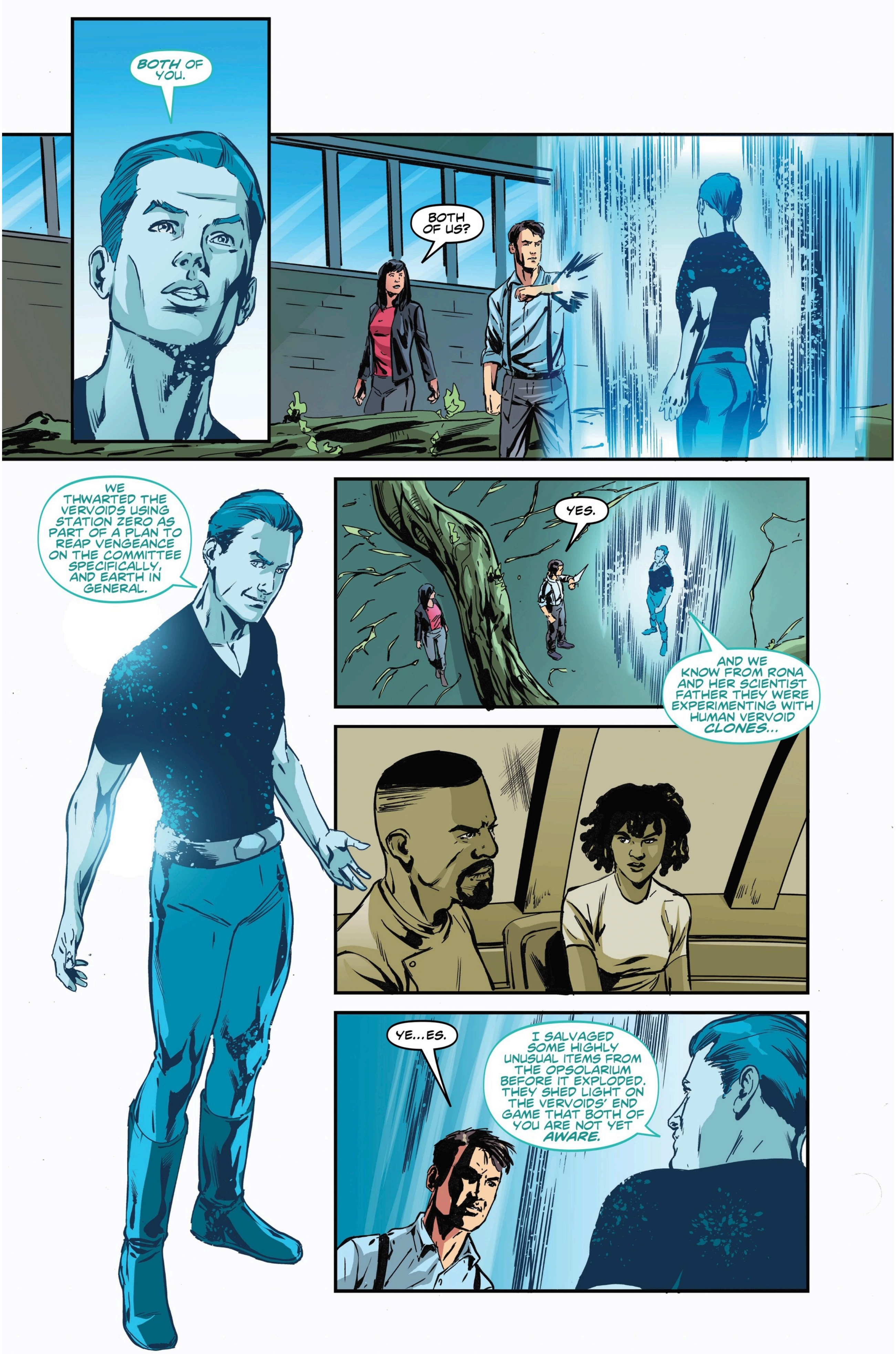

SCOTLAND. TORCHWOOD HOUSE.
DAYS AFTER EARTH'S CLOSE CALL
AND SOMEHOW, STILL BEING COVERED IN SLIME. PERKS OF THE JOB.
NEXT TIME PUSH *HARDER!*
THAT'S WHAT THEY *ALL* SAY...


WHEN THE ORBITING VERVOID OPSOLARIUM WAS DESTROYED... FOR SOME REASON IT CAUSED THIS TELESCOPE TO DIE ON THE VINE.
CAN TORCHWOOD SALVAGE *ANYTHING* FROM ALL OF THIS ROTTING VEGETATION? OR IS IT JUST GOING ON THE COMPOST HEAP?
DANA AND THE *ICE MAIDEN* TOOK SOME OF THE MORE EVOLVED PIECES TO STUDY THEM. IF THEY FIND ANYTHING IMPORTANT, THEY'LL LET US KNOW.
REALLY? THEY SEEMED QUITE CONTENT TO GO ON THEIR *MERRY WAY.*
I'LL *INSIST.*
BEEBEE BEEEP


AND IT WAS SUCH A QUIET DAY. UNTIL NOW. CAPTAIN JOHN HART, BRINGER OF TROUBLE AND GENERAL PAIN IN THE ASS.
I *KNEW* WE HADN'T HEARD THE LAST OF HIM.
FORGET TO PAY YOUR LICENSE FEE?
YOU'D THINK AFTER ALL THIS TIME YOU'D GET A BETTER *PICTURE*.
YOU'D THINK AFTER ALL THIS TIME I'D NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH *JUNK* ON THIS FREQUENCY ...
I CAN HEAR YOU...
I KNOW.
WE MAY HAVE ANOTHER *SLIGHT* PROBLEM... AND WHEN I SAY 'WE' I MEAN *YOU*...


BOTH OF YOU.
BOTH OF US?
WE THWARTED THE VERVOIDS USING STATION ZERO AS PART OF A PLAN TO REAP VENGEANCE ON THE COMMITTEE SPECIFICALLY, AND EARTH IN GENERAL.
YES.
AND WE KNOW FROM RONA AND HER SCIENTIST FATHER THEY WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH HUMAN VERVOID CLONES...
YE...ES.
I SALVAGED SOME HIGHLY UNUSUAL ITEMS FROM THE OPSOLARIUM BEFORE IT EXPLODED. THEY SHED LIGHT ON THE VERVOIDS' END GAME THAT BOTH OF YOU ARE NOT YET AWARE.

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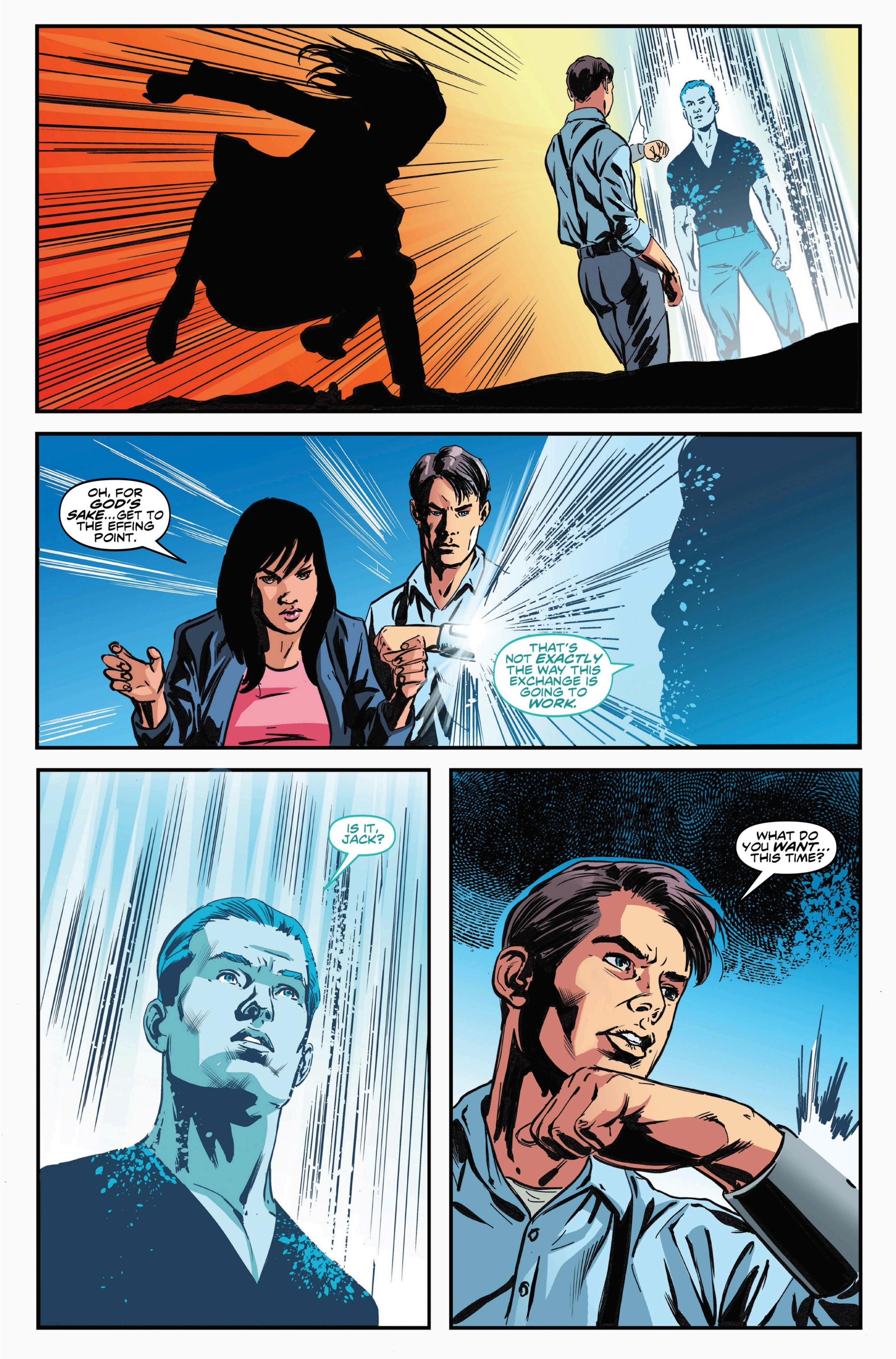
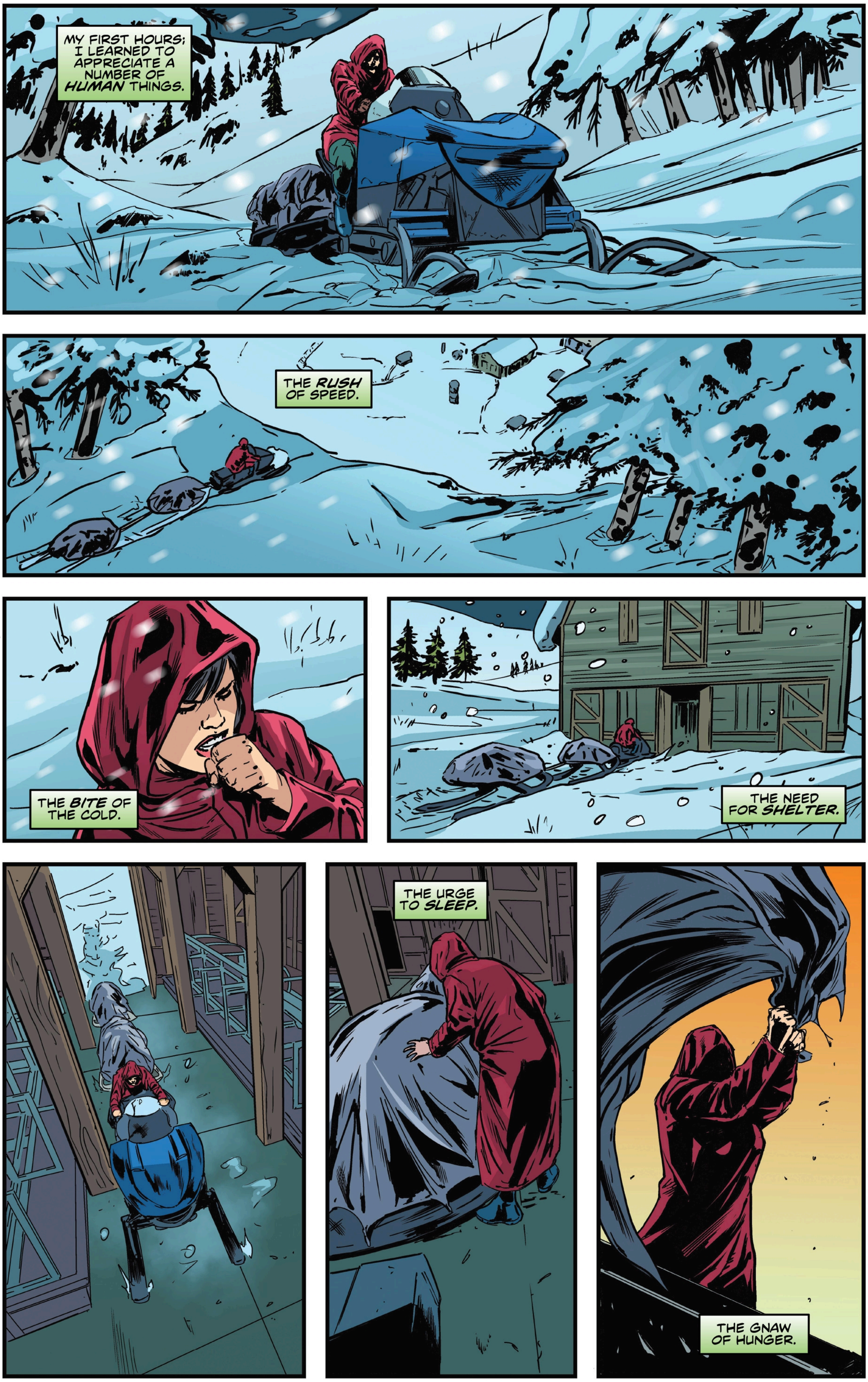
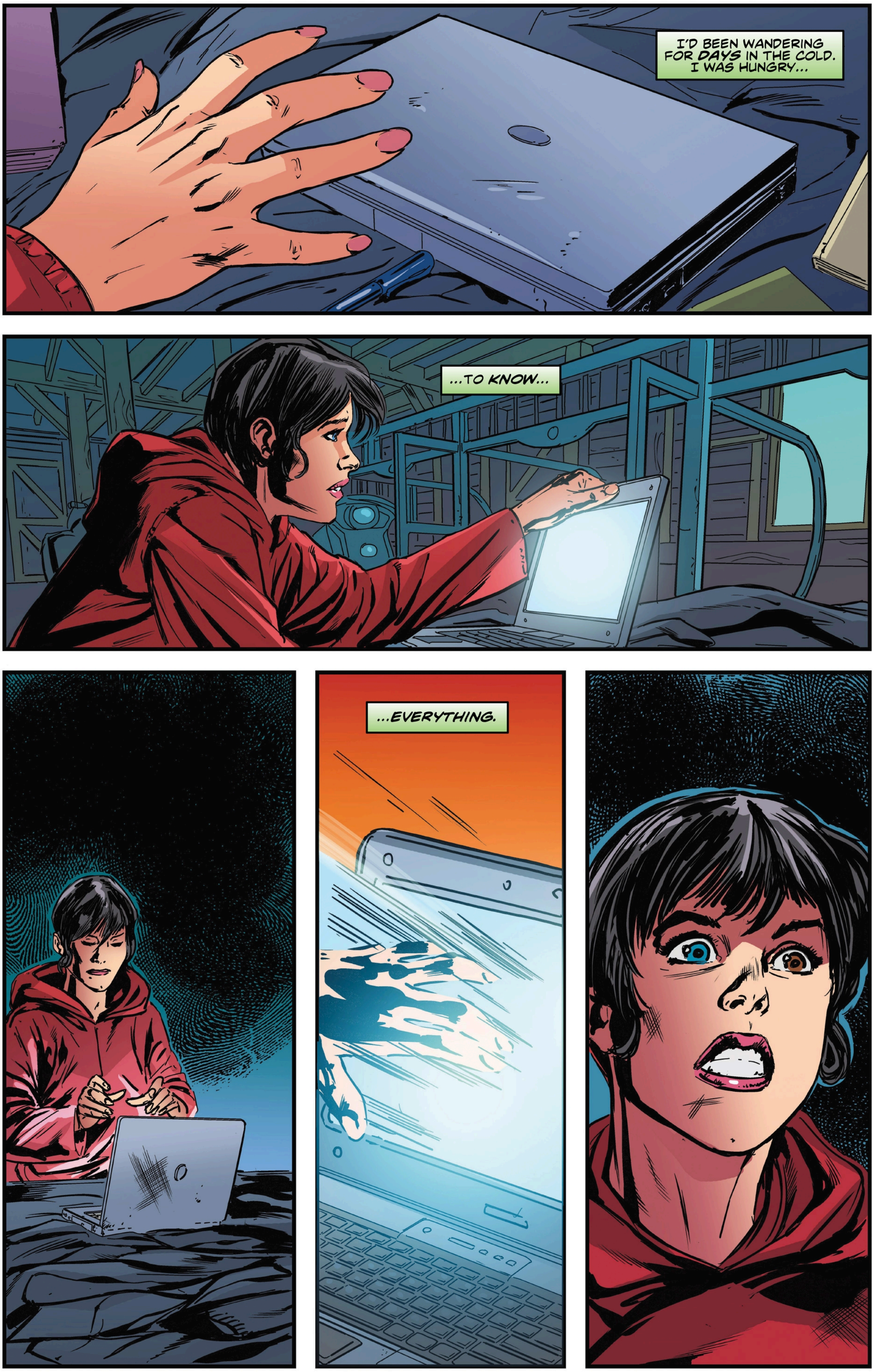
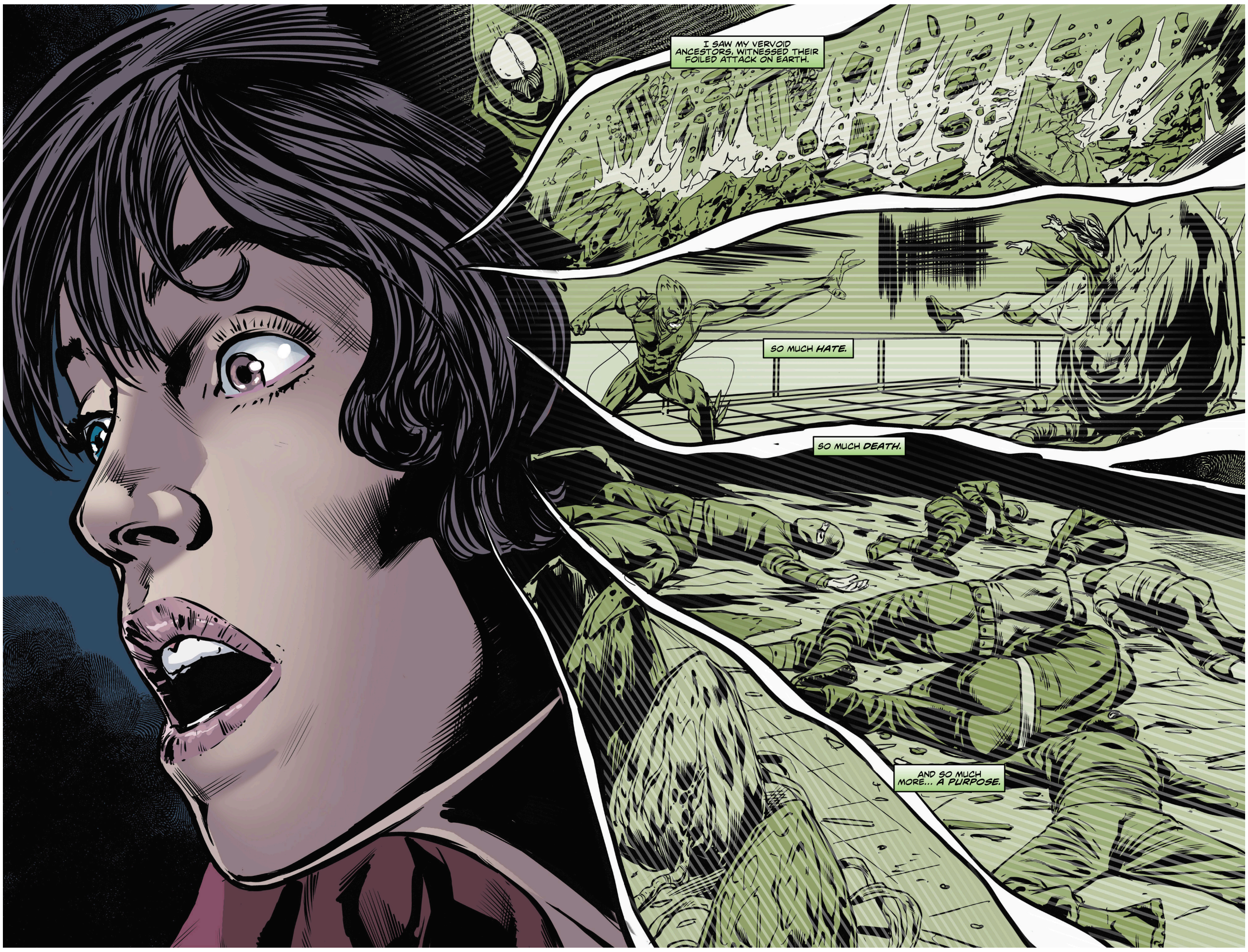
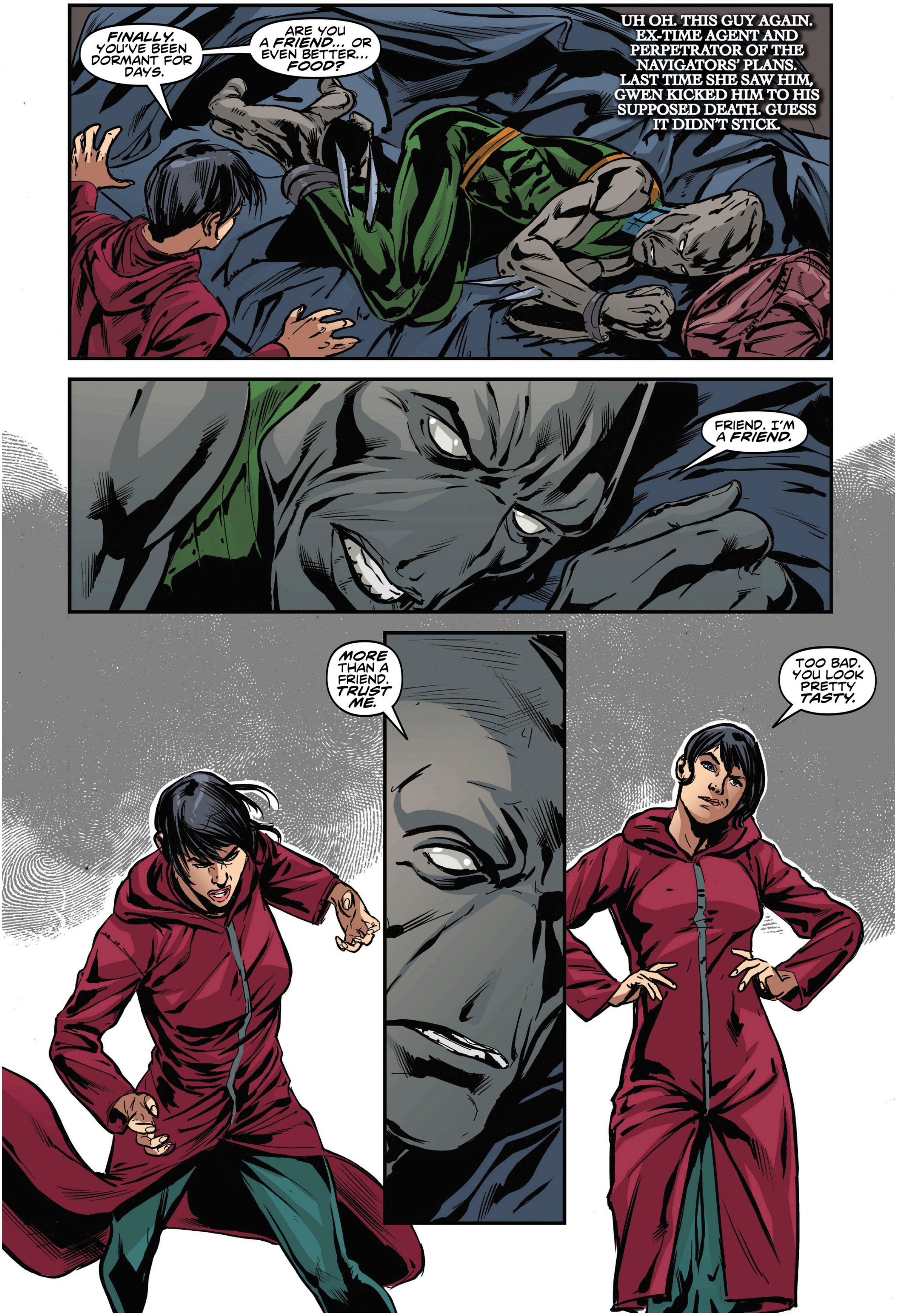
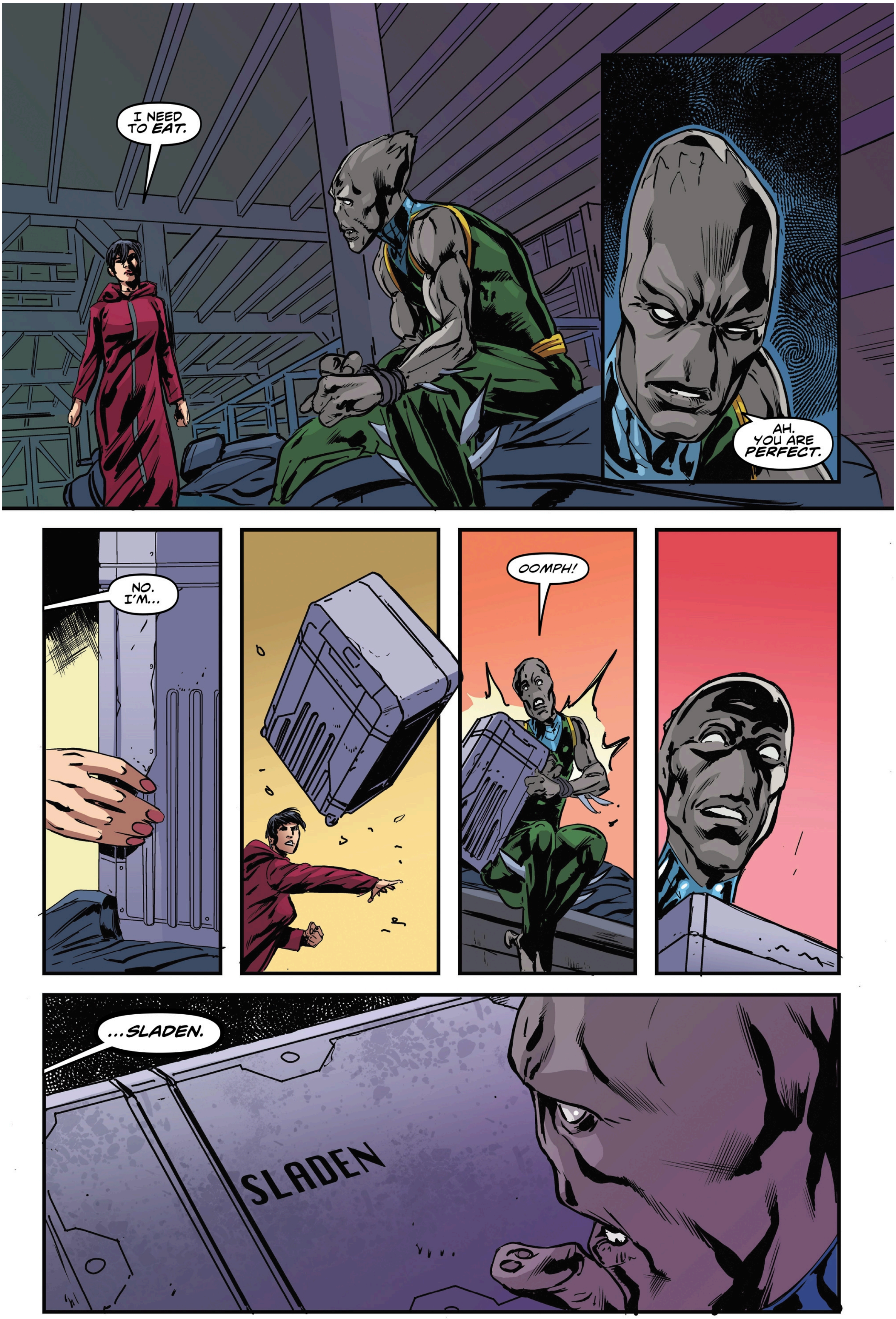

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE...GET TO THE EFFING POINT.
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY THE WAY THIS EXCHANGE IS GOING TO WORK.
IS IT, JACK?
WHAT DO YOU WANT... THIS TIME?

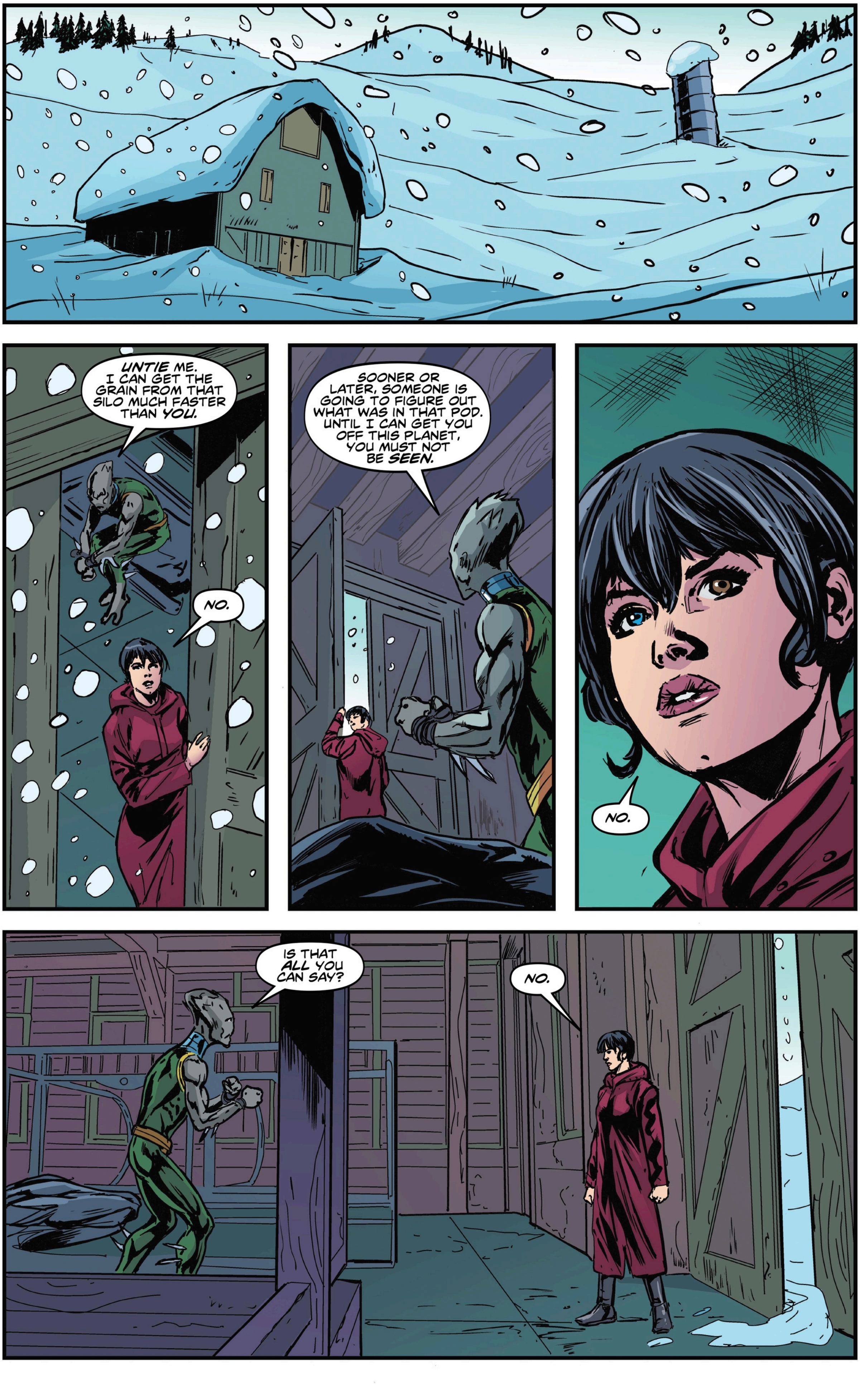

MY FIRST HOURS; I LEARNED TO APPRECIATE A NUMBER OF *HUMAN* THINGS.
THE *RUSH* OF SPEED.
THE *BITE* OF THE COLD.
THE NEED FOR *SHELTER*.
THE URGE TO *SLEEP*.
THE GNAW OF HUNGER.

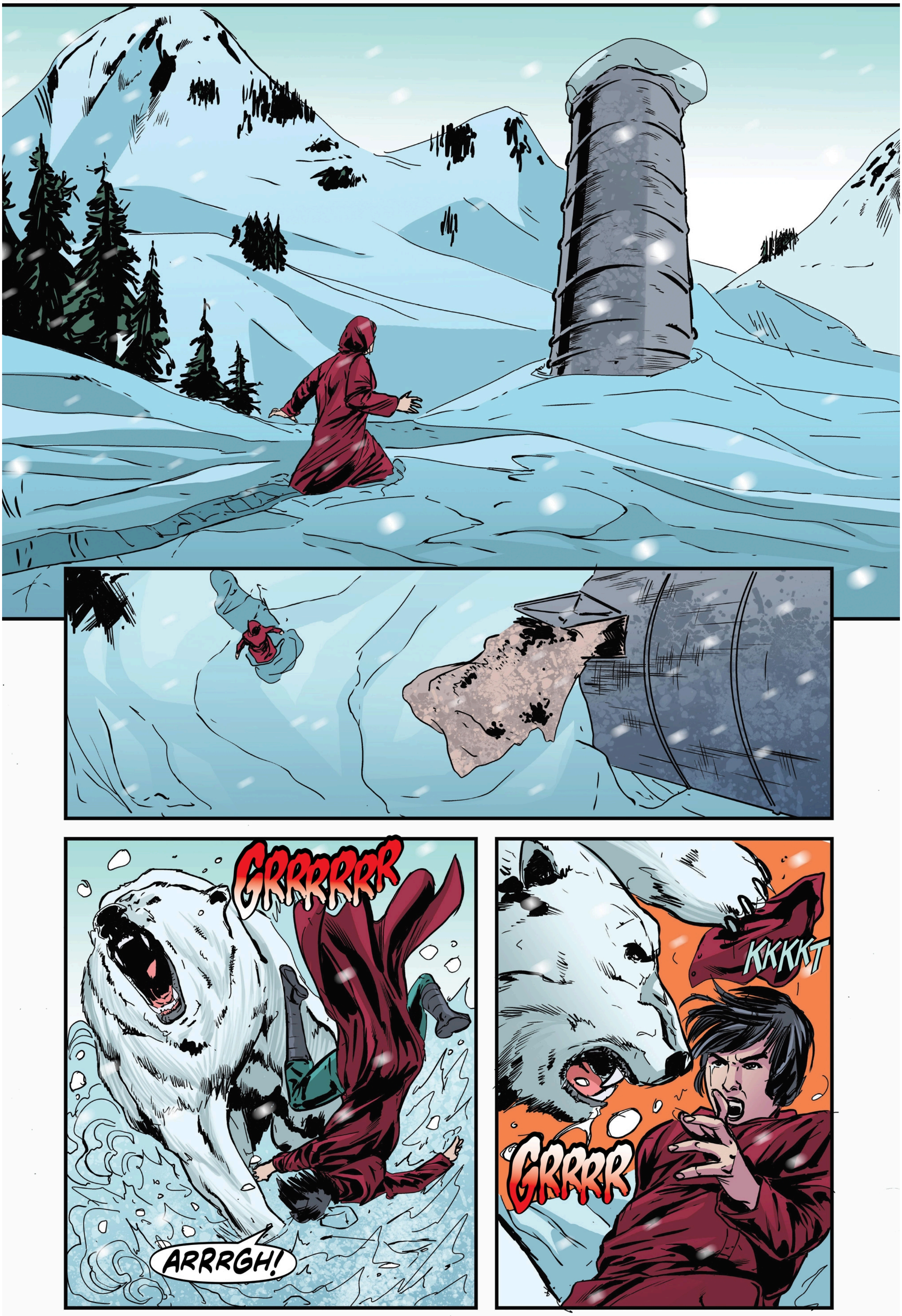

I'D BEEN WANDERING FOR DAYS IN THE COLD. I WAS HUNGRY...
...TO KNOW...
...EVERYTHING.

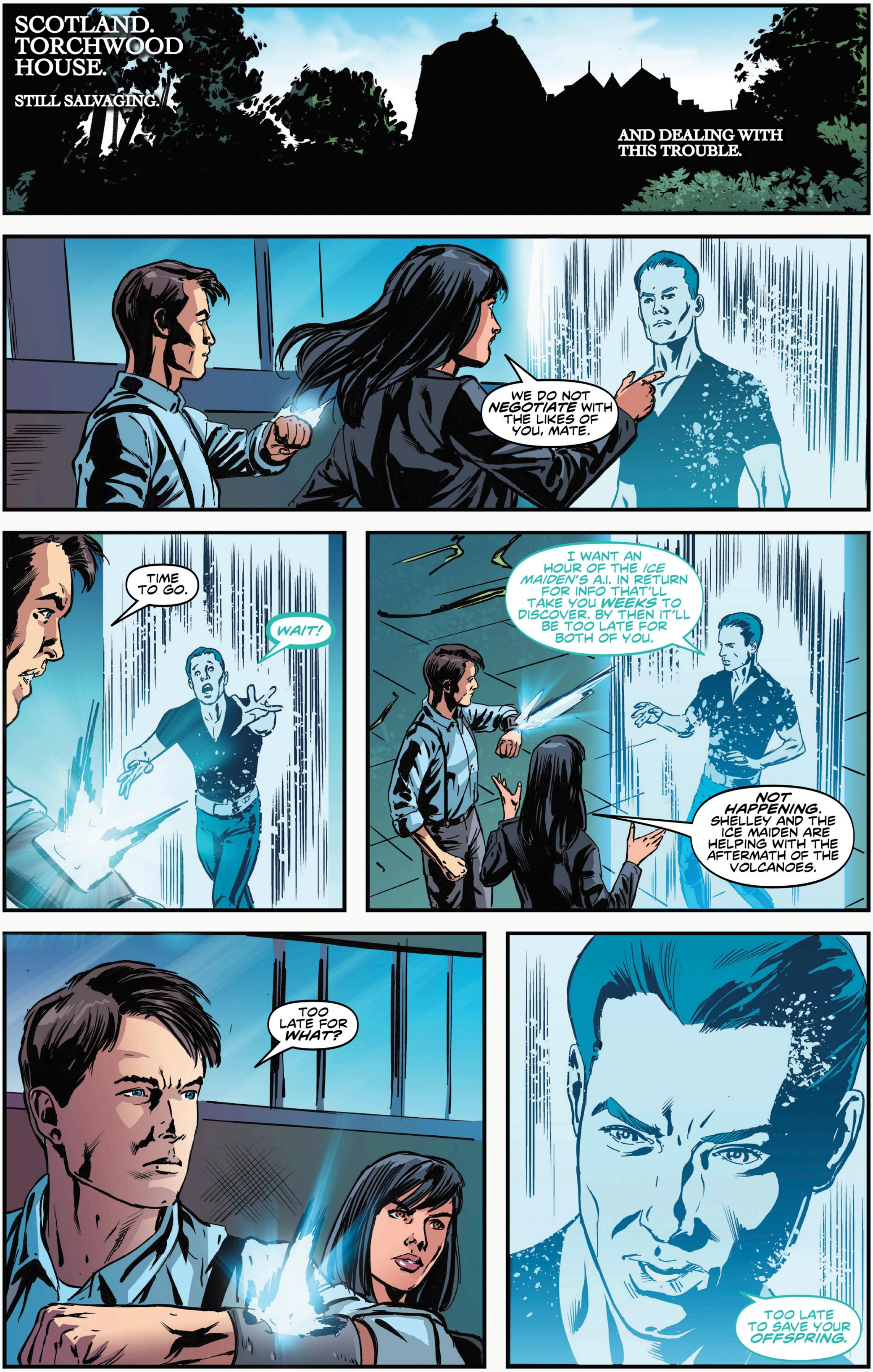

I SAW MY VERVOID ANCESTORS, WITNESSED THEIR FOILED ATTACK ON EARTH.
SO MUCH *HATE.*
SO MUCH *DEATH.*
AND SO MUCH MORE... *A PURPOSE.*

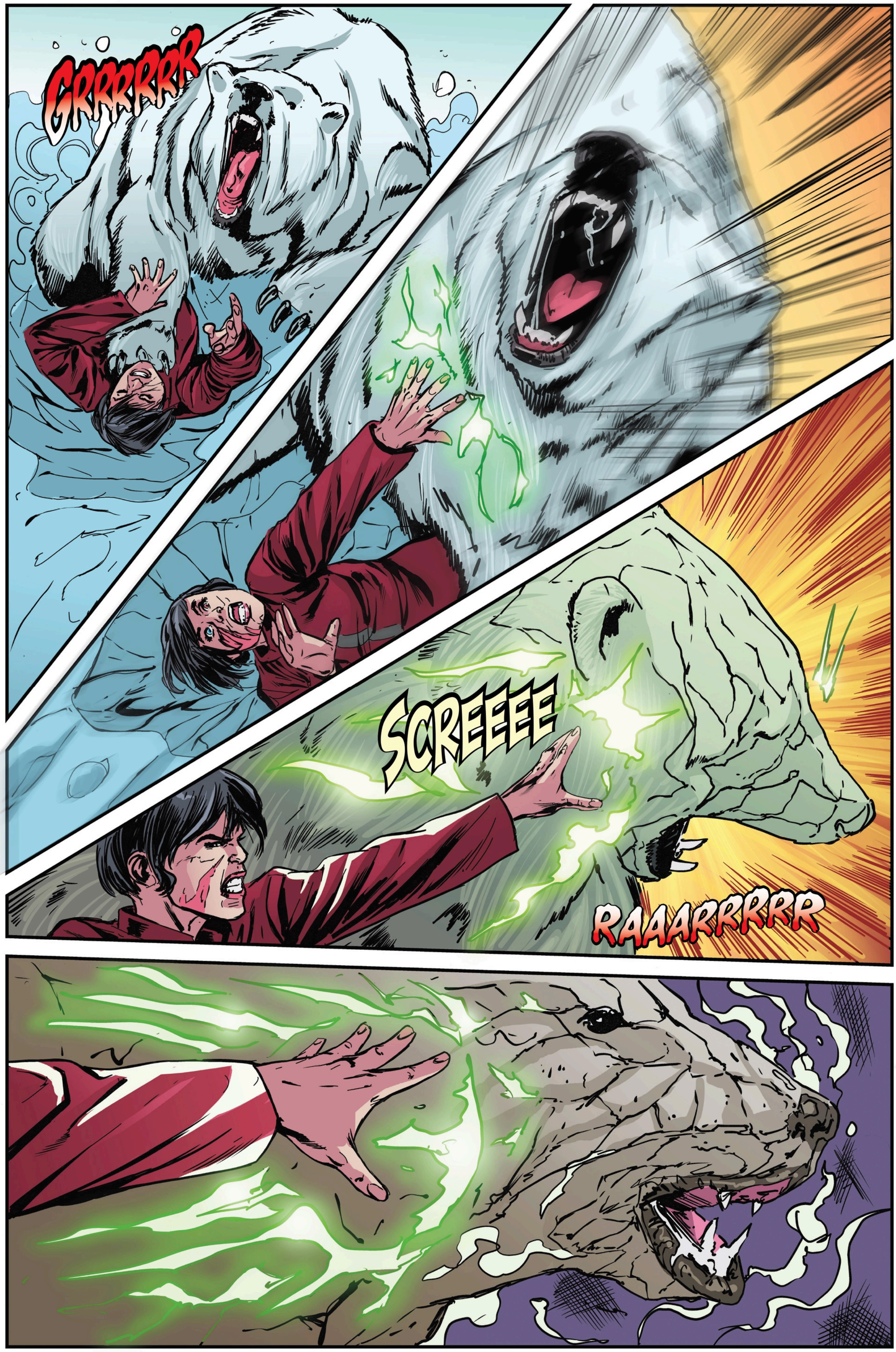

UH OH. THIS GUY AGAIN. EX-TIME AGENT AND PERPETRATOR OF THE NAVIGATORS' PLANS. LAST TIME SHE SAW HIM, GWEN KICKED HIM TO HIS SUPPOSED DEATH. GUESS IT DIDN'T STICK.
FINALLY. YOU'VE BEEN DORMANT FOR DAYS.
ARE YOU A FRIEND... OR EVEN BETTER... FOOD?
FRIEND. I'M A FRIEND.
MORE THAN A FRIEND. TRUST ME.
TOO BAD. YOU LOOK PRETTY TASTY.

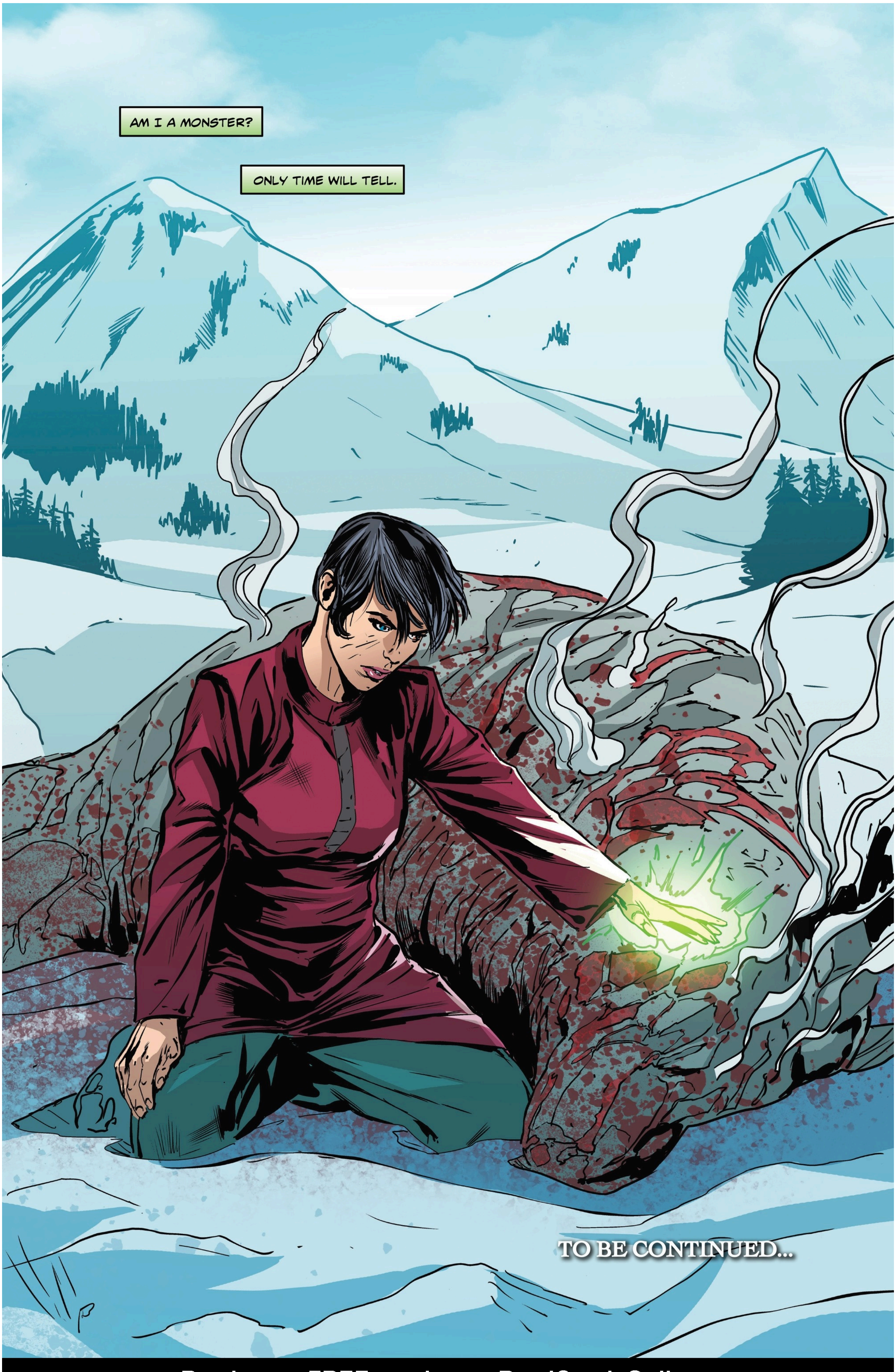

I NEED TO *EAT.*
AH. YOU ARE *PERFECT.*
NO. I'M...
OOMPH!
...SLADEN.
SLADEN


UNTIE ME. I CAN GET THE GRAIN FROM THAT SILO MUCH FASTER THAN YOU.
NO.
SOONER OR LATER, SOMEONE IS GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS IN THAT POD. UNTIL I CAN GET YOU OFF THIS PLANET, YOU MUST NOT BE SEEN.
NO.
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY?
NO.


GRRRRRR
ARRRGH!
KKKKT
GRRRR


SCOTLAND. TORCHWOOD HOUSE.
STILL SALVAGING.
AND DEALING WITH THIS TROUBLE.
WE DO NOT *NEGOTIATE* WITH THE LIKES OF YOU, MATE.
TIME TO GO.
WAIT!
I WANT AN HOUR OF THE *ICE MAIDEN'S* A.I. IN RETURN FOR INFO THAT'LL TAKE YOU *WEEKS* TO DISCOVER. BY THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR BOTH OF YOU.
NOT HAPPENING. SHELLEY AND THE ICE MAIDEN ARE HELPING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE VOLCANOES.
TOO LATE FOR *WHAT?*
TOO LATE TO SAVE YOUR *OFFSPRING.*


GRRRRRR
SCREEEE
RAAARRRRR


AM I A MONSTER?
ONLY TIME WILL TELL.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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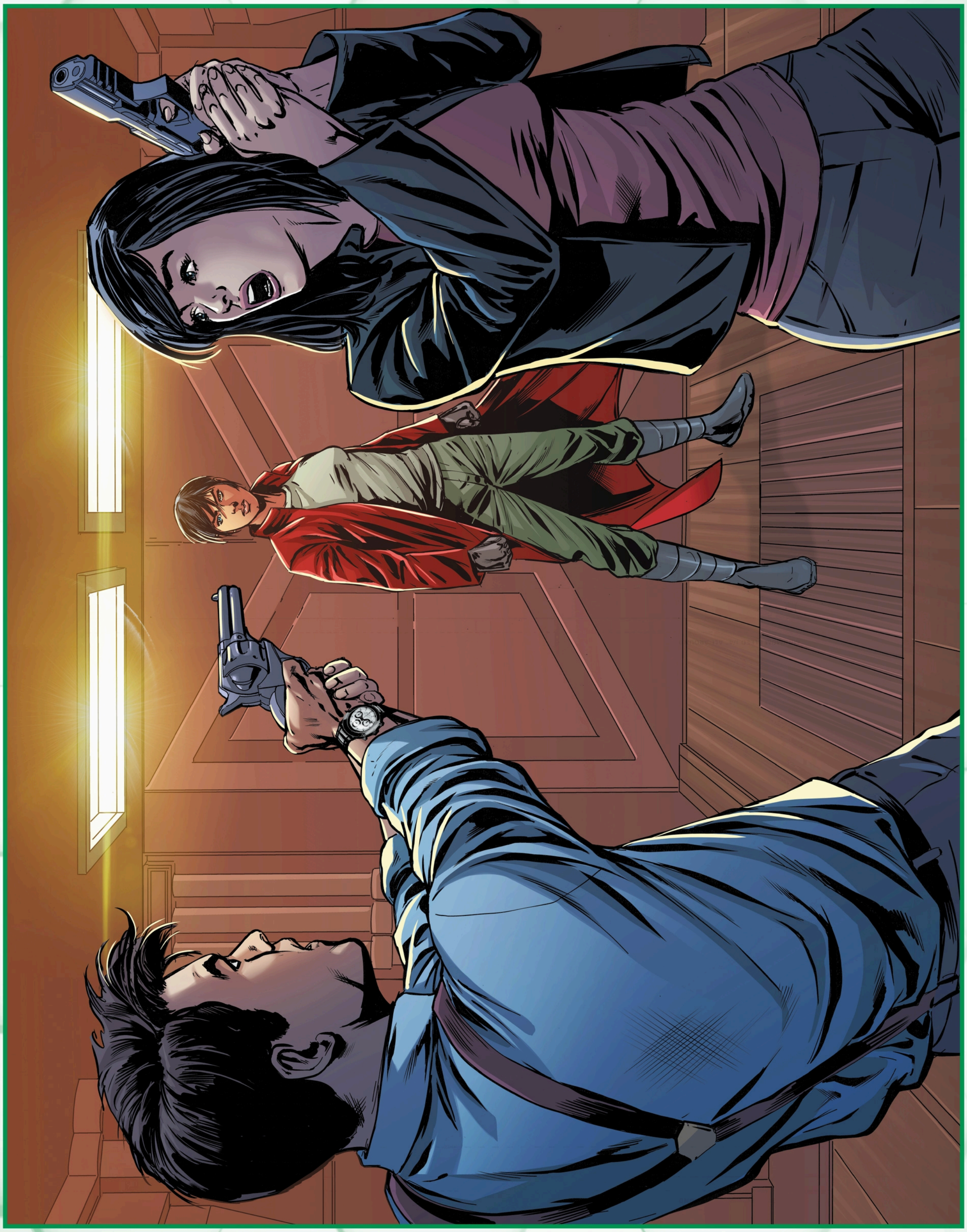

JACK AND GWEN CONFRONT SLADEN

BY NEIL EDWARDS AND DIJJO LIMA

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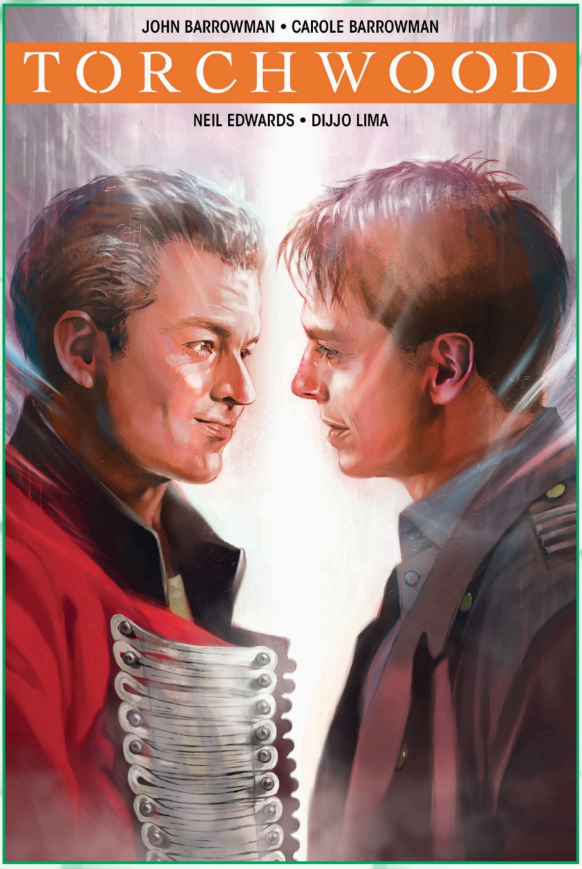
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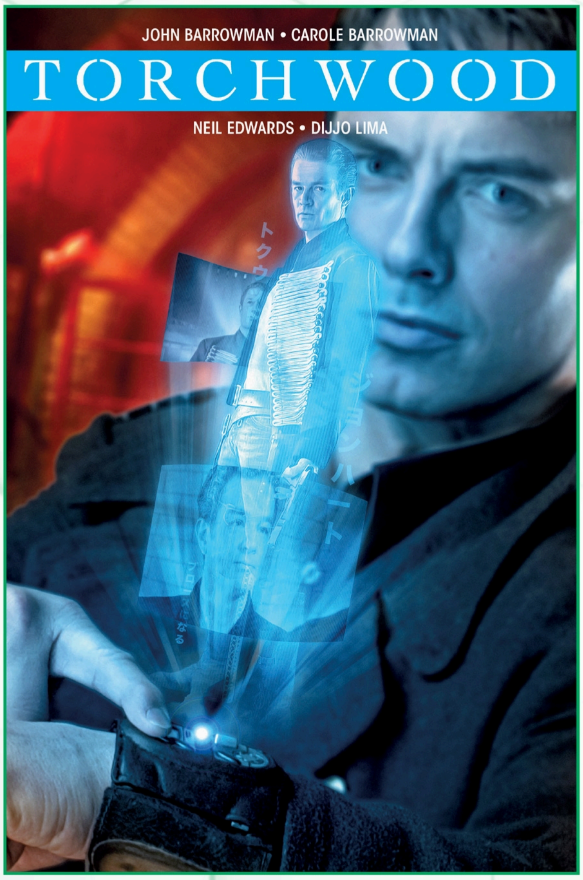
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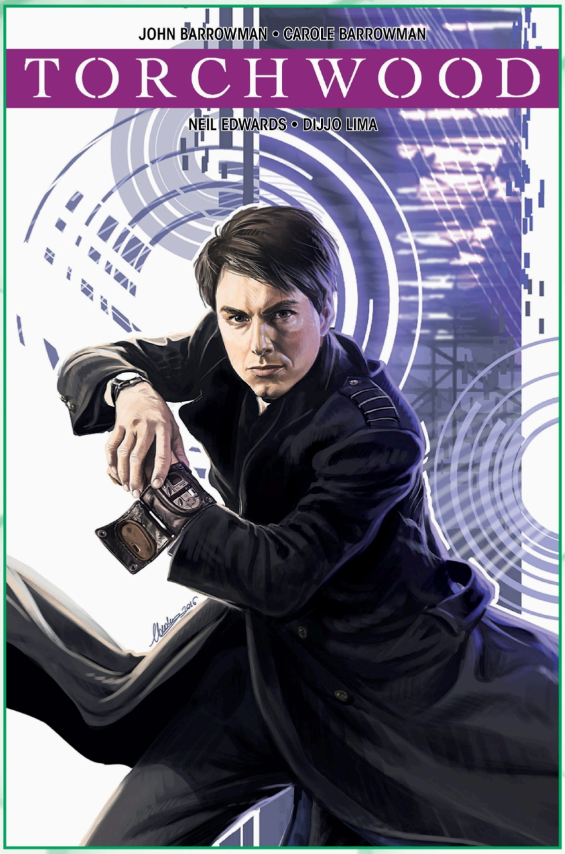
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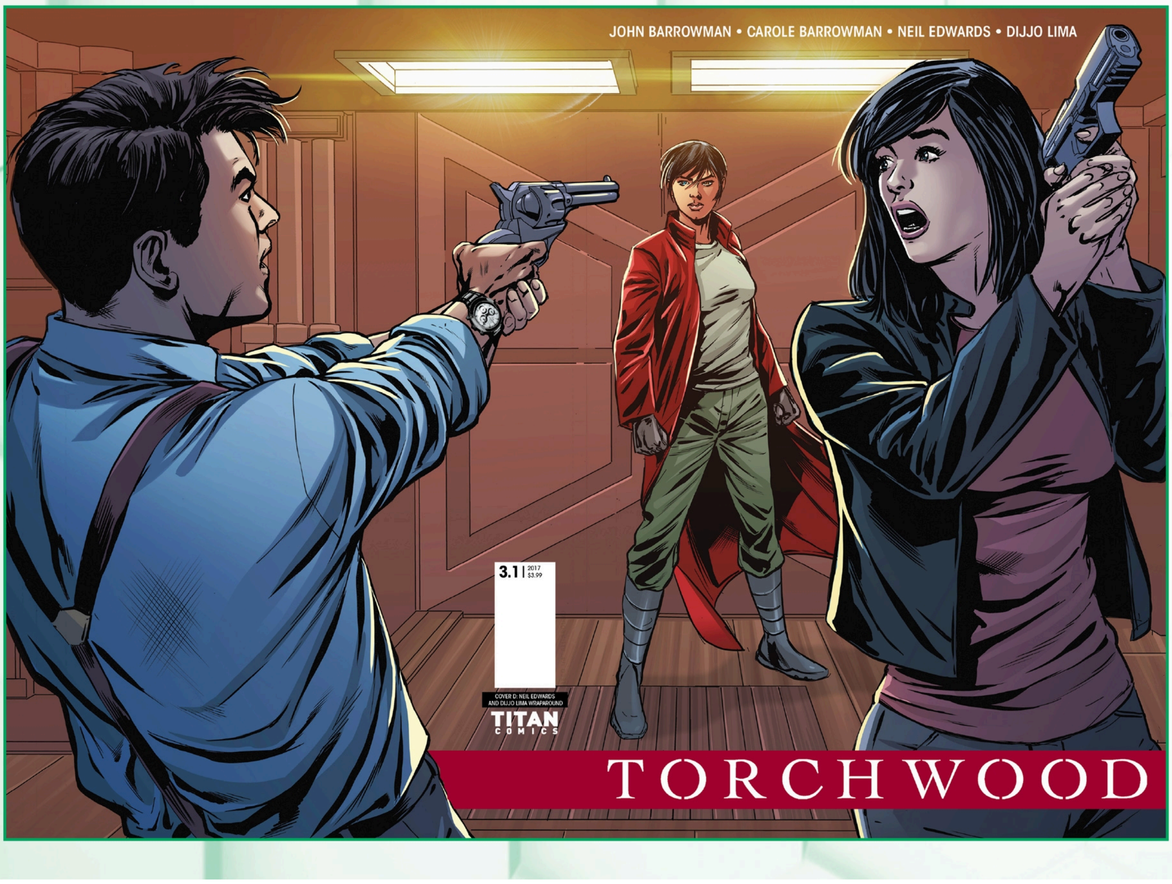
WRAPAROUND VARIANT COVER

BY NEIL EDWARDS & DIJJO LIMA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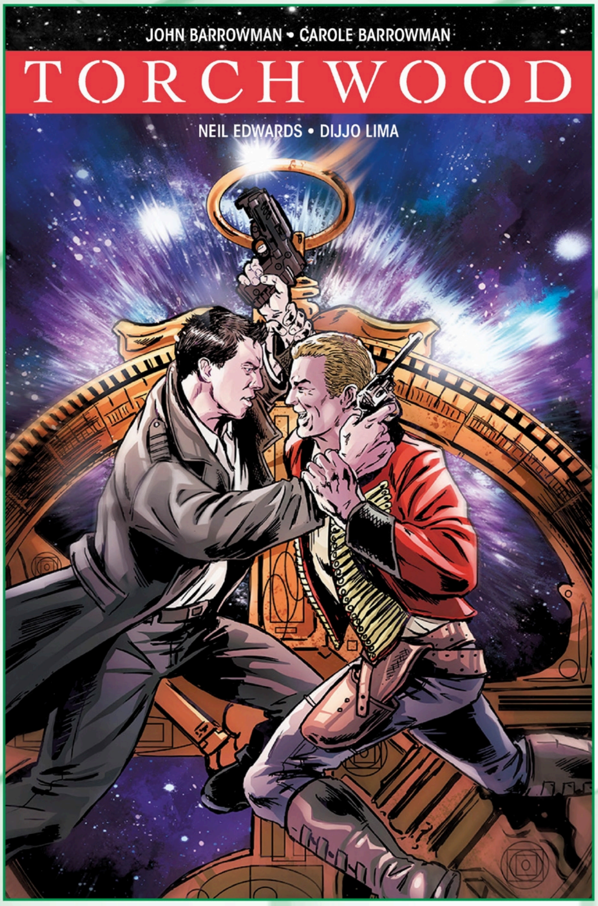
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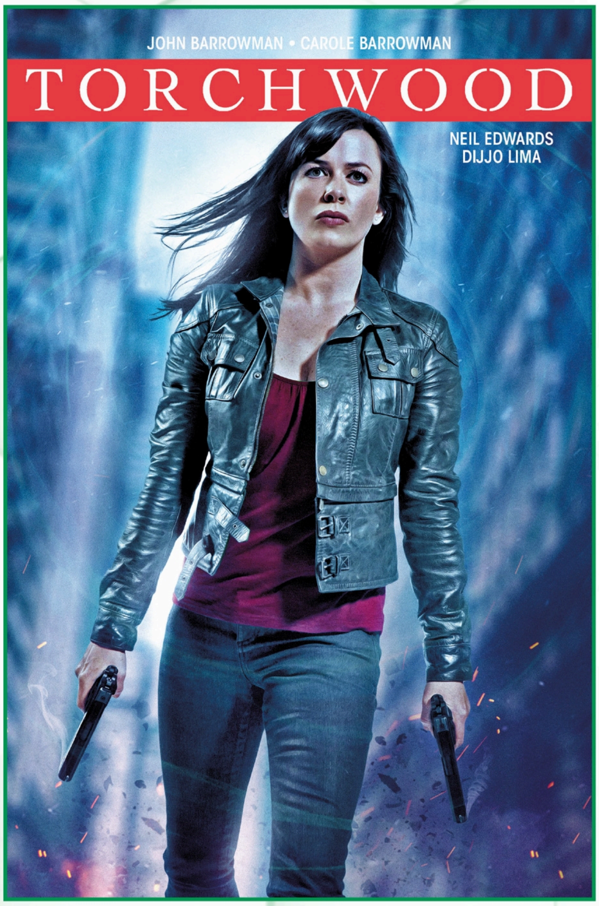
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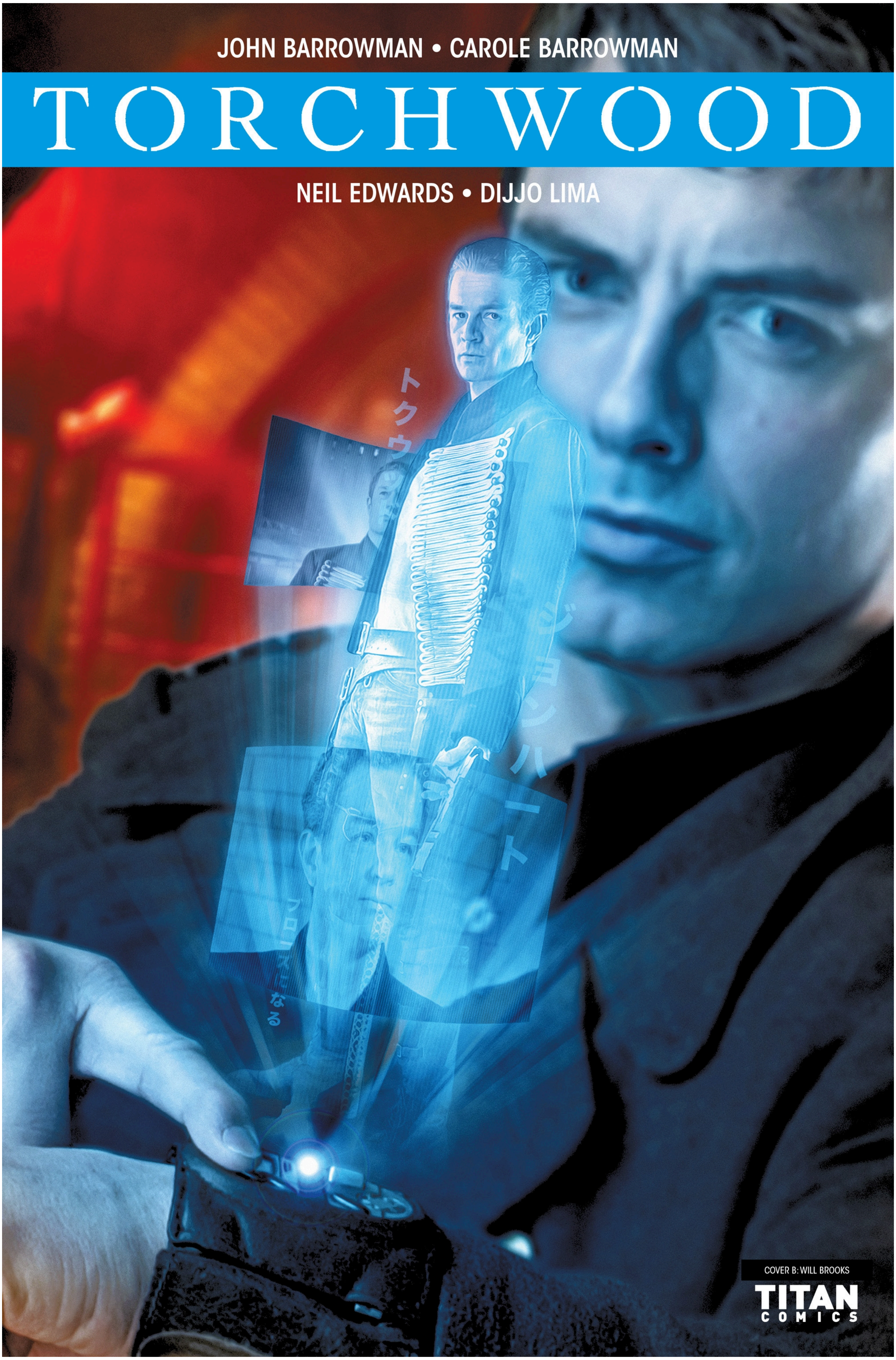
DIJJO LIMA

As Sladen begins to unravel the true, terrifying nature of her powers, Jack and Gwen must race to find her… before she destroys the world!

But will their influence be enough to prevent her from carrying out Docilis' plans, whatever they may be? Or could their old friend Captain John be leading them into yet another dangerous trap?!

ON SALE: NOV!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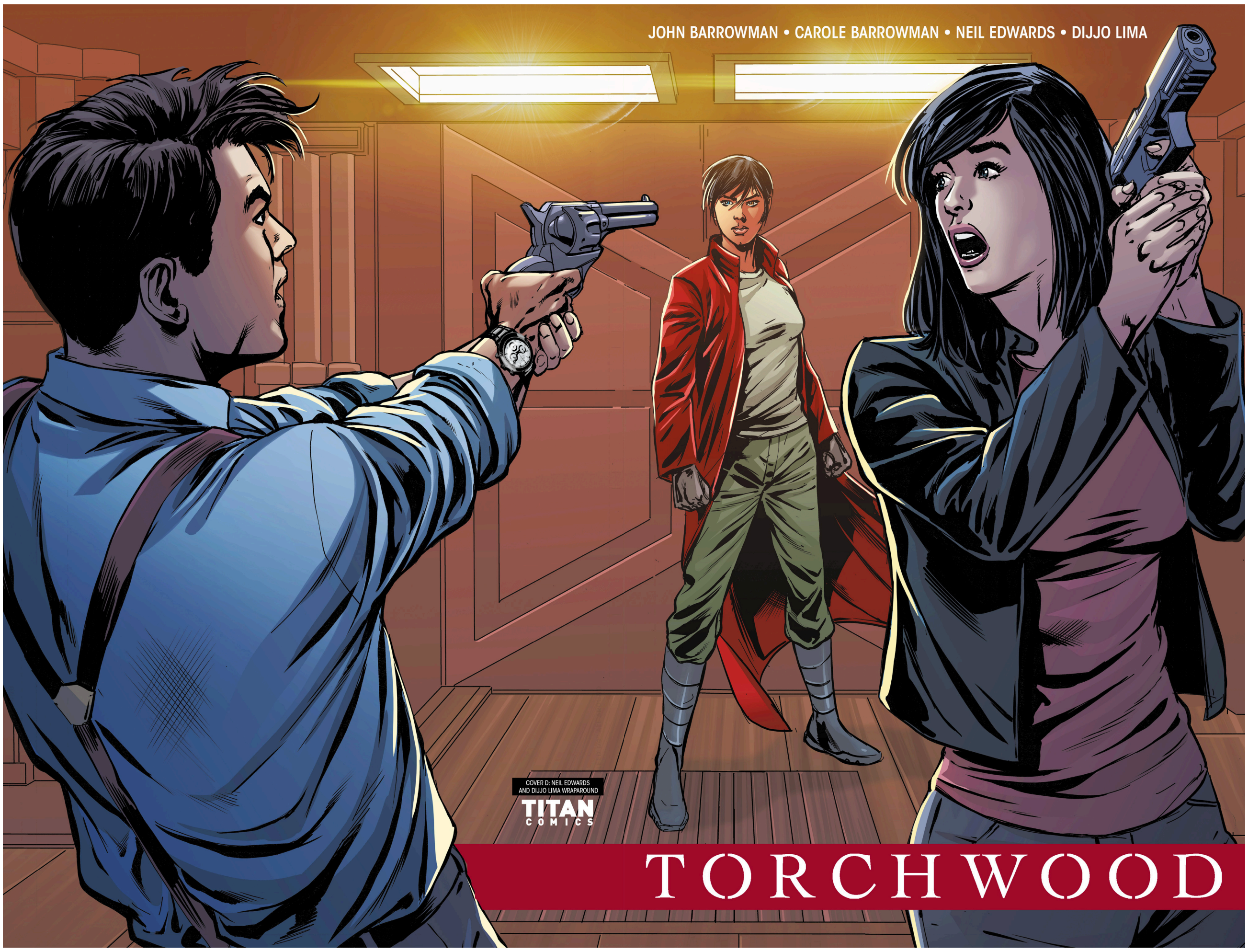
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